
HOUSE BILL 1397

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Tokuda, Boldt, Kagi, Benson, Kenney, Cody, Schual-Berke and Santos

Read first time 01/25/2001. Referred to Committee on Children & Family Services.

1 AN ACT Relating to children placed in the care of relatives; adding
2 a new section to chapter 74.13 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** It is the intent of the legislature in
5 enacting this act to:

6 (1) Recognize family relationships in which a relative is the head
7 of a household that includes a child otherwise at risk of foster care
8 placement;

9 (2) Enhance family preservation and stability by recognizing that
10 most children in such placements with relatives do not need intensive
11 supervision of the placement by the courts or by the department of
12 social and health services;

13 (3) Recognize that permanency in the best interests of the child
14 can be achieved through a variety of permanency options, including
15 long-term relative custody, guardianship, or adoption, by providing
16 additional placement options and incentives that will achieve
17 permanency and stability for many children who are otherwise at risk of
18 foster care placement because of abuse, abandonment, or neglect, but
19 who may successfully be able to be placed in the care of relatives.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.13 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 The department shall adopt rules to establish and operate the
4 relative caregiver program. The program shall include, but is not
5 limited to, the following elements:

6 (1) Relatives who qualify for and participate in the relative
7 caregiver program are not required to meet foster care licensing
8 requirements.

9 (2) Relatives who are caring for children shall receive a special
10 monthly relative caregiver benefit, which shall be in the amount of at
11 least one hundred dollars per child per month. This benefit shall not
12 be available to relatives for the first child placed; the benefit shall
13 be available only for the second child and each subsequent child placed
14 with the relative. The relative caregiver benefit is not intended to
15 supplant any other grant or benefit for which relatives or the children
16 in their care are currently eligible.

17 (3) Within available funding, the relative caregiver program shall
18 provide relative caregivers with a range of support services designed
19 to assist relatives in parenting the children placed in their care.

20 (4) Children living with relative caregivers who are receiving
21 assistance under this section shall be eligible for medicaid coverage.

22 (5) The department may use appropriate available state, federal,
23 and private funds to operate the relative caregiver program.

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